

**Borough of Rocky Hill
Borough Council
Minutes of the Special Meeting/ Budget Discussion
March 2, 2015**

The special meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Rocky Hill was called to order by Mayor Jeff Donahue at 6:00 PM followed by the salute to the flag.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Donahue read the following statement into the record: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting was included in a list of meetings transmitted to the Courier News and Somerset Spectator on February 24, 2015. Notice remains continuously posted as to required notices under the Statute. A copy of this notice is available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Robert Ashbaugh-present, Mr. Tom Bremner-present, Mr. Billy Dawson-present, Ms. Connie Hallman-present, Mr. Phil Kartsonis-present, Mr. Bob Uhrik-absent.

Also present: Mayor Jeff Donahue, Clerk Rebecca Newman, Deputy Clerk Christine Witt, and CFO Joe Monzo.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

CFO Monzo gave an overview of the budget. Last year's surplus is \$319,000 compared to \$802,000 the previous year. The state does not allow the Borough to include grant money until it is actually received. If the Borough had received the DOT grant for the Downtown Beautification project in 2014, the surplus would be \$726,000. The Borough generates surplus from cell tower leases, nursery school rent, court fees, licenses and permit fees, taxes, and cancelled appropriations from the previous year.

Mayor Donahue went through the proposed budget with the Council. He explained that 95% of the budget is recurring expenses. The Mayor and CFO filled in the suggested budget, and the Mayor asked for feedback from Council. Based on the discussion, the following changes were made to the proposed budget with the net effect of reducing the proposed budget by \$831:

- 1- decrease admin codification by \$7,500
- 2- increase admin IT costs by \$3,000
- 3- decrease council cell phones by \$1,000
- 4- decrease parks by \$2,000
- 5- increase shade tree by \$2,000
- 6- increase streets by 10,000
- 7- increase community group by \$1,500
- 8- decrease deferred charges by \$3,831
- 9- add county grant for Borough Hall of \$ 120,000 to revenue and expense
- 10- decrease capital IT project by \$3,000

The Borough is maintaining the same local tax rate as last year. The budget will be introduced at the March 16, 2015 meeting for April adoption.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cliff Moore of The Montgomery News asked what the total budget number is. Mayor Donahue responded that the tax rate will remain flat.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Bremner with a second by Hallman to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted:
Christine Witt, Deputy Borough Clerk